

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A food container comprising at least one opening through which food is moved; and a humidity source in fluid contact with an air stream providing humidity to the air stream, wherein the air stream is directed across the opening to form a barrier between the interior of the container and the exterior environment.
2. The container according to claim 1, wherein the container is portable.
3. The container according to claim 1, wherein the opening is on a top side of the container.
4. The container according to claim 1, comprising a control system configured to control at least one of the temperature and humidity of the interior of the container.
5. The container according to claim 1, comprising a fan and a duct system configured to circulate the air stream through the container.
6. A food container, the container defining at least one opening through which food is moved; and an air curtain system providing a humidified air curtain over the opening.
7. The container according to claim 6, wherein the container is portable.
8. The container according to claim 6, comprising a control system configured to control at least one of the temperature and humidity of the interior of the container.
9. The container according to claim 6, wherein the air curtain system comprises:
at least one heating element configured to heat the air in the air curtain; and
a water source configured to humidify the air in the air curtain.
10. A container comprising:
a heating element disposed in the container, the heating element used to at least one of cook food, rethermalize food, and maintain food at a temperature;
at least one substantially vertical opening through which food is moved between the interior and exterior of the container; and

at least one duct configured to direct an air stream across the opening to form a barrier between the interior of the container and the exterior environment.

11. The container according to claim 10, comprising a fan configured to circulate the air stream through the container.

12. The container according to claim 10, wherein the opening is substantially planar.

13. The container according to claim 10, comprising a control system configured to control the temperature and/or humidity of the interior of the container.

14. The container according to claim 10, comprising a support surface in the container for supporting the food items.

15. The container according to claim 14, wherein a portion of the air stream flows over and around the food items.

16. A container comprising:
at least one opening through which items are moved between the interior and the exterior of the container;
a plurality of support surfaces in the container for supporting the items; and
an air curtain system providing an air curtain over the opening;
wherein a portion of the air stream flows over and around the items.

17. The container according to claim 16, wherein the items comprise food items.

18. The container according to claim 16, wherein the air curtain is used to maintain at least one of the humidity and temperature of the interior of the container at a controlled level.

19. A container comprising:
at least one opening through which items are moved between the interior and the exterior of the container; and
a duct system configured to direct an air stream across the opening, the duct system comprising a plurality of air returns;

wherein at least one of the air returns is positioned adjacent to the opening and receives at least a portion of air stream, the portion of the air stream forming a barrier between the interior of the container and the exterior environment; and

wherein the items are configured to be positioned substantially between at least another one of the air returns and the opening, the another one of the air returns being configured to receive another portion of the air stream.

20. The container according to claim 19, wherein the container is portable.

21. The container according to claim 19, comprising a control system configured to control the temperature and/or humidity of the interior of the container.

22. The container according to claim 21, wherein the another portion of the air stream is used to maintain the temperature and/or humidity substantially constant.

23. The container according to claim 19, wherein the items comprise food.

24. A container comprising:
at least one opening through which items are moved out of the container;
an air curtain provided over the opening to form a barrier between an interior environment of the container and an exterior environment; and
a first side positioned substantially opposite the opening, the first side comprising at least one air return which is configured to receive a portion of the air from the air curtain.

25. The container according to claim 24, wherein the items comprise food.

26. The container according to claim 24, comprising a fan configured to circulate the air in the air curtain through the container.

27. The container according to claim 24, wherein the first side is substantially uniformly perforated.

28. The container according to claim 27, wherein the first side is substantially planar.

29. The container according to claim 24, comprising a control system configured to control the temperature and/or humidity of the interior of the container.

30. A container comprising:
at least one opening through which items are moved between the interior and exterior of the container; and
an air curtain provided over the opening to form a barrier between the interior of the container and the exterior environment;
wherein the air in the air curtain is used to maintain the temperature and the humidity of the interior of the container at substantially controlled levels.

31. The container according to claim 30, wherein air from the air curtain is used to maintain the temperature and/or the humidity of the interior of the container at substantially controlled levels without the use of additional temperature and/or humidity control systems.

32. The container according to claim 30, comprising a fan configured to circulate the air through the container.

33. The container according to claim 30, wherein the air in the air curtain passes adjacent to a water source to humidify the air.

34. The container according to claim 33, wherein the water source is heated.

35. The container according to claim 30, wherein the items comprise food.

36. The container according to claim 30, wherein the container is portable.

37. A container configured to house food comprising:
at least one fan configured to output an air stream; and
a baffle configured to receive the air stream from the fan;
wherein the air stream from the baffle passes over a water source to humidify the air stream; and
wherein the humidified air stream is circulated in the container to maintain the water content of the food at or above a set level.

38. The container according to claim 37, wherein the container is configured to house food.

39. The container according to claim 37, wherein the container is portable.

40. The container according to claim 37, wherein the water source is heated.

41. The container according to claim 37, wherein the baffle comprises at least one perforated plate.